

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 /015 W

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P R 111000Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6635

US CUSTOMS SERVICE WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 2712

US CUSTOMS FOR COMMISSIONER VERNON D. ACREE AND ACTING DIRECTOR
INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS DIVISION FLETCHER POTTER

ROME FOR CUSTOMS ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: NA/A

TAGS: SNAR, HU, US

SUBJ: VISIT OF U.S. COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS TO BUDAPEST

REF: (A) CUSTOMS 5486, (B) ROME 12687 NOTAL

1. AT OPENING OF MEETING AUGUST 10 BETWEEN DR. JANOS SZALAI
AND EMBOFF, SZALAI STATED THAT HE HAD SENT LETTERS TO U.S.
COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS ACREE AND TO AMBASSADOR SHELDON VANCE,
SENIOR ADVISOR TO SECRETARY ON NARCOTICS MATTERS, INVITING THEM
TO VISIT HUNGARY. LETTERS WRITTEN IN JUNE BUT ACCORDING TO
SZALAI ONLY MAILED BY HUNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY LAST WEEK.

2. SZALAI WAS DELIGHTED TO LEARN THAT MR. ACREE CONSIDERING
VISIT TO HUNGARY SEPTEMBER 17-18. HE ENTHUSIASTICALLY PROPOSED
THAT MR. ACREE MAKE FOUR-DAY VISIT FOR SEPTEMBER 17-20.
HE INDICATED HE WOULD LIKE TO ARRANGE FOR VISITS TO
TOKAJ WINE-GROWING AND MISKOLC RESORT REGIONS AS WELL
AS TO CONDUCT OFFICIAL TALKS IN BUDAPEST. EMBOFF
REPLIED THAT HE WAS NOT SURE HOW LONG ACREE COULD STAY
IN HUNGARY BUT PROMISED TO RELAY SZALAI'S PROPOSAL.

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3. DR. SZALAI REMAINS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO COOPERATION

WITH U.S. ON NARCOTICS MATTERS, RECOGNIZES WORLDWIDE DANGER REPRESENTED BY NARCOTICS TRADE AND NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. WE BELIEVE THAT VISIT BY COMMISSIONER ACREE WOULD HELP CONSOLIDATE U.S. AND EMBASSY RELATIONSHIPS WITH SZALAI AND HUNGARIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE WHICH RECEIVED SUBSTANTIAL BOOST WITH SZALAI'S VISIT TO U.S. LAST MAY. IN VIEW LENGTHY SZALAI STAY IN U.S., EMBASSY HOPES IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO ACCOMMODATE HUNGARIAN DESIRE FOR FOUR-DAY VISIT. IN ANY CASE WE BELIEVE TWO-DAY VISIT WOULD ALSO BE EFFECTIVE AND ESPECIALLY PROPITIOUS IN VIEW OF INCREASING U.S. CONCERN WITH POTENTIAL FOR DIVERSION OF NARCOTICS TRADE THROUGH EASTERN EUROPE AND IN VIEW OUR WISH TO BE ABLE TO WORK MORE CLOSELY WITH HUNGARIAN CUSTOMS OFFICIALS ON NARCOTICS AND OTHER MATTERS IF SITUATION SHOULD REQUIRE IT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHETHER MR. ACREE ACCEPTS SZALAI'S INVITATION AND WHETHER HE CAN STAY FULL FOUR DAYS.
MUDD

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